



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office

3900 Idaho Street

Elko, Nevada 89801-4211

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html)

In Reply Refer To:  
4700(NVE00000)

### DECISION RECORD

#### **Elko District Vegetation Treatment Maintenance Project Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-N010-2010-0005-EA**

##### **Decision**

It is my decision to implement the proposed action, as described in the Elko District Vegetation Treatment Maintenance Project Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-N010-2010-0005-EA), to include special design and monitoring features to protect resources of concern. The proposed action consists of managing 21 existing vegetation treatments by implementing a long-term maintenance program so that original project objectives can be met or continue to be met.

##### **Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

Based on my review of the Elko District Vegetation Treatment Maintenance Project Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-N010-2010-0005-EA), I determined that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

##### **Mitigation**

No mitigation has been identified as being necessary for this fuels treatment.

##### **Rationale**

As described in the Environmental Assessment, the proposed action is consistent with applicable resource management plan (RMP's for the Elko & Wells Resource Areas) as well as other federal, state and county laws and regulations including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Also, the proposed action conforms to the 1987 Elko & 1985 Wells Resource Management Plans (RMP's), as amended for fire management on September 29, 2004. *"Proposed use of mechanical treatment and biological (including grazing) treatments to maintain the fuel breaks are consistent with methods described for reducing wildfire fuels loads"* (2004 RMP Fire Management Amendment Decision Record, page 3). The RMP amendment acknowledges the role of hazardous fuel reduction activities to protect resources at risk from wildfire, consistent with the January 2001 Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. The approved treatments would not result in undue and unnecessary degradation of the public lands.

### **Persons and Agencies Consulted**

The project has been planned in consultation with the livestock permittees for the project areas, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and has considered input from the interested public. This includes consideration of several alternatives brought forth from the interested public. The alternatives were eliminated because they would not meet the purpose and need for reducing the risk of a catastrophic wildland fire in intact sagebrush communities.

### **Approval and Implementation Date**

This project is approved for implementation beginning on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This fire management decision is under the authority of 43 CFR 4190.1(a).

/S/

**Kenneth E. Miller**  
**District Manager, Elko**

August 30, 2010

**Date**

### *Administrative Review or Appeal*

This decision is subject to administrative appeal. Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, parties who are adversely affected and believe it is incorrect have the right to appeal to the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 4.4. Procedural information on, "Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals" can be obtained at the BLM, Elko District Office. An appeal should be in writing and specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why the decision is in error. Appellants are requested to supply this office with a copy of the Statement of Reasons.

This wildfire management decision is issued under 43 CFR 4190.1, with an implementation date of September 30, 2010. The BLM has made the determination that vegetation, soil, or other resources on the public lands are at substantial risk of wildfire due to drought, fuel buildup, or other reasons, or are at immediate risk of erosion or other damage due to wildfire. Thus, notwithstanding the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a)(1), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of the decision. The Interior Board of Land Appeals must decide an appeal of this decision within 60 days after all pleadings have been filed, and within 180 days after the appeal was filed (43 CFR 4.416).

### *Contact*

For additional information, contact Matt Murphy, Natural Resource Specialist, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko NV, 89801; telephone 775-753-0200.